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Ways and Means Committee

Subcommittees

Education

Revenues



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB222: Educational Institutions - Opioid Overdose-Reversing Medications - Policy Requirements

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

April 1, 2026 - 1:00PM

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

NARCAN is an over-the-counter medication administered as a nasal spray used to reverse an active opioid overdose. Administering NARCAN requires minimal training, and there is no danger posed to the recipient. While there is no risk associated with NARCAN, the rate of survival when NARCAN is administered has been found to exceed 90%.

Maryland has made significant progress in reducing overdose deaths, in part due to expanded access to NARCAN. Students across the state have been trained to carry and administer NARCAN, a critical step to addressing the spike in overdoses among young Marylanders.

Due to inconsistent school policies, students who carry NARCAN risk disciplinary action simply for possessing a medication intended to save lives. I have directly heard from students, including former House pages, who have been penalized simply for the act of possessing NARCAN – despite being fully trained.

HB0222 requires each county board of education to establish a policy that extends the authority to carry NARCAN to any individual acting in good faith. Right now, that authority is limited only to school personnel, leading to the penalization of students who have sought out the training and resources to provide lifesaving care to their classmates. The legislation also requires updates to curriculum to provide information on the lifesaving benefits of NARCAN.

HB0222 ensures young people understand the safety and efficacy of NARCAN and are not punished for being prepared to save a classmate's life.

I urge the committee to give a favorable report on HB0222.